

## 'Roseanne' stars becoming more comfortable with success

By MARY ANN TOWNSEND

Success is finally growing on Roseanne Barr and John Goodman, who co-star in television's hottest sitcom, "Roseanne," which airs Tuesdays on ABC. And perhaps it's because the roles they play are comfortably like themselves.

"Roseanne debuted in the fall of 1988 and quickly became the smash hit of the season. For its stars, the show's immediate success was a little overwhelming.

After "Roseanne's" first season, the comedienne's personal life began to turn upside down. She ended a 15-year marriage to husband Bill Pentland, who had been a writer and executive consultant on the show its first year, and rapidly married her younger boyfriend and fellow comic Tom Arnold. The tabloids followed her incessantly.

She and the character she plays are nearly identical. Like the character of Roseanne Conner, the real-life Roseanne is also the mother of three. The character is outspoken and rules with a fair hand and a lot of humor, the way Barr sees herself off screen.

"The reality of Roseanne Conner is that she's like everybody else. She has her flaws," Barr said. "But they (the writers) have left out a lot of the softness I think I have."

This summer during hiatus from the top-rated show, Barr is returning to her roots as a stand-up comedienne. She began doing comedy dates around Denver in the early 1980s, worked at The Comedy Store in Los Angeles in 1985 and began appearing on television in 1986.

Barr is returning to the stand-up stage in a 10-city tour after three years away. The focus of her routine, she said, will be "the male-female kind of thing."

Her stand-up skits will include several minutes of her greatest hits; a bit as her alter ego, "Rozey with a Z" making a showbiz comeback in

Vegas; and an odd assortment of songs—yes songs. "I sing songs everyone will recognize done in a style nobody will believe," she confessed.

Likewise, Barr's co-star John Goodman, who plays Roseanne's lovable husband, Dan, at first found the immediate stardom overwhelming. In addition to starring in the top-rated television sitcom, he acted in three feature films last year, "Sea Of Love," "Always" and "Stella." "That's how we represent 'The Year Of The Actor,' by the art of the actor, the single actor dominating the stage," Cates said.

Goodman married in October of 1989 to Anna Elizabeth Hartzog, a woman he had met at a party before the series debuted.

But while it seemed things were looking up, Goodman was cautious.

"This is great. This is what I chose for myself. It's just a matter of adjustment," he said of his booming career.

Goodman is similar to his character in that, despite his stardom, he remains fairly down-to-earth. One of his goals, besides coercing his 71-year-old mother to retire from her job as a cafeteria helper at his old high school, is to buy a house in his hometown of St. Louis.


"I miss it desperately," he said. "I remember all the good things, like sitting around on a humid night in a lawn chair, listening to crickets and catching a baseball game on the radio."

**TUESDAY**



Coach Hayden (Craig T. Nelson, right) and his daughter Kelly (Clare Carey) often disagree on her choice of men, including her husband (Kris Kamm) on *Coach*, Tuesdays on ABC.

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